

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes

April 15, 2004  
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club  
Willows, Ca.

Chair Don Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. at the above location, followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was a quorum of (9) members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	Doug White	Ben Carter	
Glenn	(Denny Bungarz)	Don Anderson	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	(Russell Young)	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DWR			(Dwight Russell)
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			(Pete Rabbon)
USF&WS			Darrin Thome
USCOE			Mark Charlton
Bureau of Reclamation			Frank Michny
Names listed in parentheses represent absences			
Manager Burt Bundy			
Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary			

Mel Dodgin, Resources Agency appointee to the SRCAF Board, had previously announced his decision to retire from this position. In appreciation of his many years of support of the SB1086 Program, Mel was presented with a framed picture from the SRCAF Board of Directors, a congratulatory letter signed by Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, and a Director's Achievement Award signed by Ryan Broddrick, Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Mel thanked the members of the Board and spoke to the success of the fisheries over the years and the restoration efforts that are moving forward as well. The Chair thanked Mel for his long history with this group. At this time, a replacement for Mel has not been named by the Resources Agency.

1. Unscheduled Matters – Les Heringer gave an update on the study which began last November on the alternatives for a long-term “fix” on the gravel bar intrusion at the pumping plant. The river has moved farther west this winter but they encountered no major problems this year. At their March Technical Expert meeting two agency representatives noted it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to consider limiting the meander as one of the possible long-term solution alternatives. They indicated it was because of the difficulties encountered in trying to get other bank protection projects permitted. Les wanted to bring this to the Board's attention as he feels all options should

be left open to discussion and because limiting the river's meander was a SRCAF guideline to be used where it is "appropriate".

2. Consent Calendar - Doug White moved to adopt the March 18, 2004 Board minutes, seconded by Lynnel Pollock. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
3. Strategic Plan – Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, gave an overview of the 3-Year Strategic Plan and Annual Plan. Over the past few months there has been considerable discussion, and opportunity for public input, on the 3-Year Plan. The Strategic Plan has been revised several times with subsequent revisions also made to the Annual Plan. The Annual Plan represents a target plan with both base activities and activities that are contingent upon future support and/or funding. Three of the strategies were identified during the prioritization process as being among the most important to be completed; those strategies were noted in the Annual Plan. Marc Faye noted the Plan will serve as a blueprint for the Board and there will be opportunities to make adjustments. He pointed to the considerable work that has been done over this past year and felt it was time to move forward. Marc moved to adopt the Goals and Strategies, the 3-Year Plan and the Annual Plan, seconded by Bill Borrer. During discussion Lynnel noted it was important that there be flexibility to allow the Board to review the goals and strategies each year to make sure the strategic plan stays on track. In response to a question, it was clarified that there had been no major changes since the last time the 3-Year Plan was seen by the public. Several governance issues, including committee structure, will be discussed by the Executive Committee for recommendation to the Board at the June meeting.

The Chair called for a vote, the motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Lynnel informed the Board that Yolo County and other local public entities are pursuing the formation of Joint Powers Agency in an attempt to negotiate the purchase from PG&E of more than 17,000 acres in the Yolo Bypass. The effort is an attempt to preserve the agricultural lands, habitat, and water resources. The County would take the lead in negotiations with PG&E for acquisition and then develop a management plan.

4. Agency Reports – Diana Jacobs, DFG, reported the Senate Rules Committee had approved the appointments of Lester Snow and Ryan Broddrick. She also announced that the Calfed Bay-Delta Authority had met last week. A Finance Options Report, looking at a long-term finance plan for Calfed, will be released on April 26<sup>th</sup> for review and comment.

Vickie Newlin, Calfed Bay Delta Authority (CBDA), reported a draft list of projects under the water recycling program will go to the State Water Resources Control Board for their approval. The Department of Conservation has approved funding for the Watershed Coordinators positions. The CBDA has appointed lead scientist John Moore to head up their science team. Vickie will bring copies of the Annual Plan when they are available, it will also be on their website.

Mark Charlton, Corps of Engineers (COE), reported:

(1) AB1983, designed to align the Reclamation Board with the Coe, has made it through the State Assembly Committee. Currently, the Reclamation Board can only cost-share in flood control projects (2) There have been some concerns expressed about the level of protection provided in the Hamilton City Levee Project. The COE hopes to be able to

accommodate those concerns, including those expressed by an agricultural landowner (3) Recent articles in the Sacramento Bee reported on the Sacramento Valley Flood Control Project and the backlog of maintenance needs on the system. The COE has developed a white paper, "Status of Sacramento River Bank Protection Project", which is looking at a new system-wide approach to mitigation rather than negotiating project-by-project. 30 critical sites exist that need immediate maintenance without the delay of doing site-by-site mitigation. The COE has proposed relocating levees and widening flood channels by buying large river restoration sites that would serve as a mitigation bank. In exchange, flood agencies would be able to use riprap on the most critical sites.

Lynnel noted Yolo County had sent a letter in support of the regional approach. Tim Ramirez, CBDA, suggested asking the Department of Water Resources (DWR) about this issue, specifically, the report the Department said it would do on floodplain management.

Frank Michny, Bureau of Reclamation, reported:

(1) They will be releasing the supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the Trinity River restoration next week. On average, it will result in 200,000 acre feet less going down the Sacramento River (2) The Bureau is developing an Operations Criteria and Plan which will detail procedures for long-term operation of the Central Valley and State Water Projects. Consultation is scheduled for June or July. (3) The Bureau is working to renew approximately 200 contracts between Shasta and the mouth of the Feather River. They are obligated to renew based on water need analyses, resulting in few changes to prior contracts.

Darrin Thome, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – The next Calfed Ecosystem Restoration Program solicitation for proposals will be out in August or September and will be geared to monitoring of formerly funded projects.

5. California Bay-Delta Authority Regional Profile for the Sacramento Valley – Vickie Newlin discussed a draft document, "Sacramento River Regional Profile", which had been emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. The draft is being developed to help stakeholders have a better understanding of the activities and needs of the regions defined within the California Bay-Delta Program and is being circulated for input. Vickie asked that any comments or suggestions be emailed to her @ [vickien@calwater.ca.gov](mailto:vickien@calwater.ca.gov) by the end of April.

6. Board Committee Reports –

- *Executive Committee* – The committee reviewed the items on today's agenda. The Chair will appoint a nominating committee to bring a recommendation for a slate of officers to the June Board meeting. Lynnel Pollock informed the committee she will be going to Washington at the end of the month and offered to speak on behalf of the SRCAF regarding the Hamilton City Project.

At the Board meeting the Chair appointed Bill Borrer, Darrin Thome, Jane Dolan and Pete Rabbon to the nominating committee.

- *Landowner Assurances Committee*– The ad hoc committee is continuing its efforts on the Voluntary Alternate Dispute Resolution. The LAC did not meet in April; a tentative date of May 5<sup>th</sup> was suggested for the next meeting date. Staff will email the committee and confirm whether that date will work or if it needs to be rescheduled.

- *Boat Ramp Committee* – Has not met.
- *TAC* – Bonnie Ross, DWR, updated the group on the Feeny Lerch property. DWR has made a final offer to the landowner and they are waiting for the response. Kelly Moroney announced a public workshop will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Red Bluff Community Center to discuss the La BARRANCA Restoration Project. River Partners has scheduled a public input meeting for April 28<sup>th</sup> for the Riparian Sanctuary Project. Dan Efseaff, River Partners, discussed the Drumheller Slough Unit Restoration Project. The project had been discussed at the March TAC meeting and some questions had been raised about contact with neighboring landowners. Dan reported they had met with all of the adjacent landowners and no issues or concerns had been noted. The TAC completed the review of the proposal and has found that it meets the Handbook guidelines. The group moved to the Ord Bend Restoration Project. The project has incorporated several measures to help minimize potential impacts to their neighbors including a permanent fire break, a vegetative screen to serve as a noise buffer, an elderberry no-planting zone, and installation of owl boxes for potential rodent damage. The group then moved to Don Anderson's property to look at several issues including a levee break and repair, road repair, trespass and deer predation. Stacy also reported on the preliminary discussion related to buffers that is occurring within the TAC.

A question was raised on the Drumheller Slough Unit Project, whether or not it was in the floodplain. Several Board members asked if the project could be held over until the June meeting because they had not had time to review the fact sheet.

Les Heringer, M&T, asked why natural processes, rather than active restoration, weren't allowed in areas where there is overflow. Diana noted each project needs to address that issue because, if possible, it is more desirable to let the natural processes work.

The Board was in support of Lynnel speaking on behalf of the SRCAF regarding the Hamilton City Project during her trip to Washington. Staff will contact Bill Paris and ask him to put together an informational packet on the project and forward to Lynnel.

7. Manager's Report – Burt Bundy reported:

- *Hamilton City* – The Project is moving forward. The Draft Feasibility Report/EIS/EIR was printed in the Federal Register April 9 followed by a 45 day review. Congressional Authorization is anticipated for October, 2004.
- *Woodson Bridge*- Section 1135 funding has been depleted until the next funding cycle. The project was presented to the Interagency Working Group and there was a positive response for a possible tie-in with the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project.
- *Colusa Sub-reach* – The contract between Calfed and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) should be finalized within the next two weeks. The first draft of a Memorandum of Agreement between the SRCAF and TNC has been developed. The Steering Committee will meet in the near future and includes landowner and public interest representatives from both Glenn and Colusa Counties.

8. Next Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm., at the Colusa-Sacramento River State Park. The annual barbeque will follow the meeting. Staff will explore the possibility of arranging some site visits in the area.